

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9026

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, TD

SUBJECT: OAS REFORM AND THE SANTIAGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) STATE 70440, (B) STATE 72139

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CUTHBERT JOSEPH APRIL 2 TO PRESENT U.S. POSITIONS ON REFORM OF THE OAS (REF A) AND RETENTION OF THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE AT THE SANTIAGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I OUTLINED OUR PROPOSALS CONCERNING A STUDY GROUP TO REWRITE THE CHARTER AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUCH A GROUP AND OUR DESIRE TO MAKE THE OAS A STREAMLINED AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION.

2. DR. JOSEPH SAID THAT, AS PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS HAD DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD LAST DECEMBER, TRINIDAD WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE REFORM OF THE OAS. ITS CHIEF INTERESTS WERE REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON MEMBERSHIP AND IN MAKING THE OAS AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION TO ASSIST ITS MEMBERS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS REGARD, DR. JOSEPH EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH THE U.S. GAVE TO TRINIDAD'S EFFORTS IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY ON THE RESULTS OF THE REFORM PROCEDURES OR ON U.S. PROPOSALS BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD
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CONSIDER OUR SUGGESTIONS IN ITS GENERAL REVIEW OF THE

OAS.

3. JOSEPH REACTED PROSITIVELY TO MY COMMENTS ABOUT CONTINUING THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SANTIAGO BUT DID NOT COMMIT THE GOTT TO THIS PROCEDURE. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT NOW KNOW IF HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RFTTEND THE MEETING SINCE THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN TRINIDAD MIGHT OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME. ON THE SUBJECT OF AN AGENDA FOR THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GA, DR. JOSEPH AGREED WITH THE KEY ISSUES PROPOSED IN REF B. HE SAID THAT OF THE TOPICS WE SUGGESTED TRINIDAD WAS MOST INTERESTED IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. TRINIDAD WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMS OF BEHAVIOR FOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AT THE MEETING. FAY

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